

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD
AMEMBASSY KABUL

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT PRESS BRIEFING

FOR YOUR INFORMATION AND GUIDANCE FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS
FROM DEPARTMENT SPOKESMAN'S PRESS BRIEFING FOR AUGUST 12,
1975:

Q. IS A TRIP TO INDIA AND PAKISTAN THAT HAD BEEN PROJECTED
BY THE PRESIDENT BEING SET FOR ANY PARTICULAR TIME?

A. NO, THERE HAS BEEN NO DECISION ON A DATE FOR THAT
VISIT.

Q. HAD THERE BEEN?

A. NO, THERE HADN'T BEEN. NO DATE SET.
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Q. IS IT LIKELY TO BE ATTACHED TO A TRIP TO CHINA THAT THE PRESIDENT IS GOING TO MAKE?

A. I'M JUST NOT ABLE TO SPECULATE WHETHER THAT WILL HAPPEN OR NOT.

Q. HAS THERE EVER BEEN ANY SPECULATION OR PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION ON A PRESIDENTIAL DATE FOR A TRIP TO INDIA?

A. NOT ON A DATE AS FAR AS I EVER WAS INFORMED.

Q. ARE YOU DENYING THE STORY IN THE TIMES?

A. WHAT PART OF THE STORY IN THE TIMES?

Q. THAT THE TRIP HAD BEEN CANCELLED, CALLED OFF.

A. I'M NOT AWARE THAT THE PLANNED VISIT -- YOU KNOW, THE PRESIDENT HAD AGREED IN PRINCIPLE TO VISIT INDIA. NO DATE HAD BEEN SET. AND THAT'S WHERE IT IS AS OF NOW.

Q. REGARDLESS OF WHETHER A DATE HAD BEEN SET, HAD A TIME, HAD A MONTH BEEN FORESEEN, A SEASON?

A. NOT TO MY KNOWLEDGE.

Q. ARE YOU SAYING THAT IT'S STILL POSSIBLE THIS YEAR?

A. I DON'T KNOW. ALL I AM SAYING IS NO DATE HAS BEEN SET, AND I DON'T BELIEVE THERE IS ANY CURRENT OR ANY ACTIVE DISCUSSION ABOUT DATES.

Q. WELL, IS IT POSSIBLE THIS YEAR?

A. I JUST DON'T KNOW.

Q. HAD THERE BEEN ACTIVE DISCUSSION?

A. I DON'T THINK SO, NO. I REALLY THINK ON A
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PRESIDENTIAL VISIT, IF YOU REALLY WANT TO PURSUE THIS, YOU'LL HAVE TO GO TO THE WHITE HOUSE.

Q. DID THE SECRETARY OF STATE'S COMMUNIQUE IN INDIA LAST FALL SAY THAT THE PRESIDENT WOULD VISIT INDIA THIS YEAR?

A. I'LL HAVE TO CHECK THE LANGUAGE OF THE COMMUNIQUE. I

WASN'T HERE.

Q. CAN YOU SAY WHETHER THE STATE DEPARTMENT HAS
RECOMMENDED AGAINST A TRIP DURING THE CURRENT STATE OF
EMERGENCY?

A. I'M NOT AWARE OF ANY SUCH RECOMMENDATION.

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